

Meigs County Children's Home
Mulberry Road
Pomeroy
Meigs County
Ohio

HABS No. OH-2261

HABS
OHIO,
SB-Pom,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HABS
OHIO
52-Pom

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MEIGS COUNTY CHILDREN'S HOME

HABS No. OH-2261

Location: Mulberry Road, Pomeroy, Meigs County, Ohio

Present Owner: Meigs County Commissioners

Present Occupant: Local school board

Present Use: Office space

Significance: According to the Ohio Historical Preservation Officer, "The Meigs County Children's Home is significant both as a component in the county's social history and as an example of institutional architecture."

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: According to "Historical and Business Review of Meigs and Gallia Counties, Ohio for the Year 1891," the Children's Home was completed in 1883.
2. Architect: S.A. Humphreys, a local architect. Information regarding his other works is not available.
3. Original and present owner: Reference to the title to the land upon which the structure stands is in the County Recorder's Office, Meigs County Court House, Pomeroy, Ohio.

1881 Deed, May 6, 1882, recorded in Volume 55, page 312. Sarah H. Dabney to Meigs County.
4. Builder, contractor, supplier: Built and supplied by locals.
5. Original plans and construction: Please see the attached sketch.
6. Alterations and additions: Two exterior doors have

been replaced, parts of the south and east porches have been replaced, interior partitions have been erected.

- B. Historical context: The State of Ohio enacted the 1866 Children's Home Law for the purpose of providing decent care for needy and orphaned children. In 1882, Meigs County's citizens voted to build the Children's Home. The Home was in operation from March, 1883, to 1973. Since then it has been used as office space for the local school board.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: The Children's Home's Italianate style, exhibited in its small scale ornament, Italianate cornice, and varying window treatments, is representative of much of the architecture of the area. The building's plan reflects its institutional program: large, airy spaces provide for dormitory style living.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: 70'3" x 50'3"
2. Foundation: Sandstone
3. Walls: Brick
4. Structural system: Wood joists and roof rafters
5. Porches: Roofed porch on each facade. East and south porches have non-original parts.
6. Chimneys: One brick chimney on east side, three brick chimneys on west side.
7. Openings:
 - a) Doorways and doors: Painted wood
 - b) Windows: Wooden. Except for three windows on the front facade, the windows are rectangular, four-paned, double hung, with stone lintels. On the front are two arched windows and one

small round one.

8. Roof

- a) Shape and covering: Tin covered hip roof
- b) Cornice: Italianate, painted wood
- c) Cupola: Wooden cupola/clerestory

C. Description of Interior

1. Floor plans

- a) Basement: Currently storage rooms on both sides of a north-south hallway. It is thought that the basement was originally the location of the kitchen, washroom, heating, and storage.
- b) First floor: Currently offices on both sides of the hallway. Originally living area.
- c) Second floor: Currently storage area, originally dormitory space.
- d) Third floor: One large airy room with a clerestory. Used for recreation.

2. Stairways: There are two wooden stairways. One goes from the basement to the third floor. One goes from second floor to third floor. Both have walnut bannisters and handrails.

3. Flooring: Hardwood 1 x 4 to 1 x 8 random boards

4. Wall/ceiling finish: Plaster

5. Doors: Wood panel (many damaged)

6. Decorative features and trim: None significant

7. Hardware: None significant

8. Mechanical equipment

- a) Heating: Originally done by means of wood and coal burning stoves which are no longer in place.

- b) Lighting: No original lighting in place.

There is some doubt that there was any artificial lighting other than candles.

- c) Plumbing: Originally there was no indoor plumbing. Some fixtures were installed in later years and are now in bad shape.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: The original size of the parcel of land on which the Children's Home was built was twenty five acres. Today it shares an eight acre hilltop with some newer buildings, namely a hospital, medical clinic, senior citizen center, and county home.
2. Historical landscape design: There are no records of the original landscape design.
3. Outbuildings: There are no records of original outbuildings. There are no outbuildings standing now but it is thought that there was originally a barn.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Original architectural drawings: None found
- B. Early views: None found
- C. Interviews: None done
- D. Bibliography

"Children's Home." Meigs County Telegraph, 17 May 1882, p. 1, col. 1.

Illustrated Historical and Business Review of Meigs and Gallia Counties, Ohio, for the Year 1891.
Coshocton, Ohio: Union Publishing Company, 1891.

"Opening of the Children's Home." Meigs County Telegraph, 29 March 1883, p.1, col.5.

- E. Likely sources not yet investigated: An extensive search was made by Ms. Susan Oliver of the Meigs County Council on Aging. It is felt that there are no other sources to be investigated.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Meigs County Council on Aging proposes to undertake (with HUD Section 202 financing) the rehabilitation of the 100 year old Meigs County Children's Home in Pomeroy, Ohio. The project will not only include the rehabilitation of the Children's Home into sixteen elderly housing units but also the construction of thirty housing units in a new building attached to the existing structure by an enclosed corridor. The rehabilitation will be carried out in accordance with the recommended approaches set forth in The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings.

LOWER LEVEL (121 FC.)

NOTE: EXISTING ROOMS
VACANT

70' (WEST SIDE)

MEIGS COUNTY
CHILDREN'S HOME

POMEROY, OHIO

OLD
TOILET

HALLWAY

STAIRS

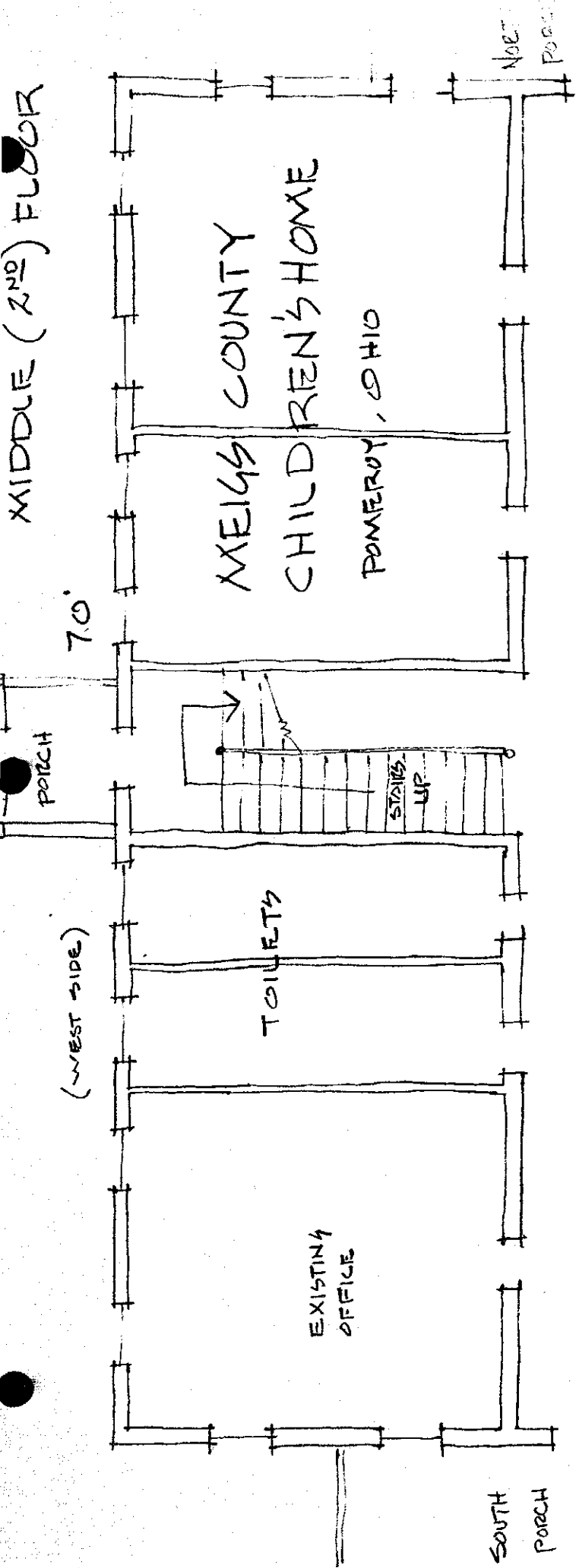
MECHANICAL

(EAST SIDE)

(NORTH)

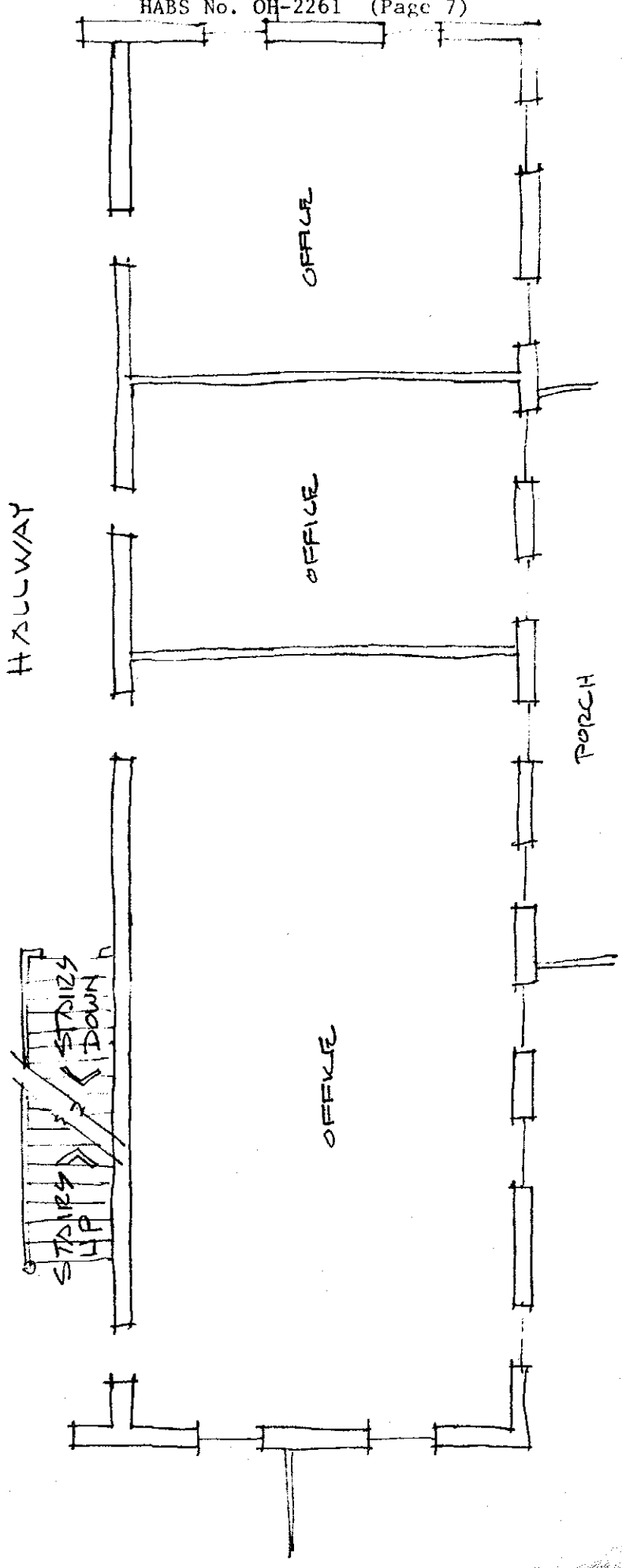
50'

MIDDLE (2ND) FLOOR



50

HALLWAY



UPPER (3rd) FLOOR

(TOP BRCH
ROOF)

NOTE: ALL ROOMS
VACANT

70'

WEST

STAIRWELL

TOILET

TOILET

TO
PORCH
ROOF

HALLWAY

STAIRS
UP
STAIRS
DOWN

50'

SOUTH

MEigs COUNTY
CHILDREN'S HOME

POWEROY OHIO

PORCH

FIRE ESCAPE